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MEDIA RELEASE

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NASHUA BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Kenneth W. Kaiser, and Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan announced today that James T. Lata, Sr., age 61, has been sentenced to serve 96 months (eight years) in federal prison.

The defendant was convicted on one count of bank robbery after a jury trial in United States District Court in Concord in May 2004. Mr. Lata had been indicted in December 2003, for the November 12, 2002, robbery of \$16,489.00 from the Citizens Bank, One Trafalger Square, Nashua. The defendant, whose disguised image was captured on bank surveillance cameras, was later discovered in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Clothing and two bags used during the robbery were recovered from the defendant's van and hotel room. No stolen money was recovered.

In addition to the prison sentence, United States District Court Judge Joseph DiClerico ordered the defendant to serve three years of supervised release and to pay \$16,489.00 in restitution to Citizens Bank, payments to begin immediately. In handing down the eight year sentence, Judge DiClerico noted the defendant's long criminal history and stated that bank robbery was an extremely serious offense whether it involved \$5.00 or \$50,000.00.

In commenting on the sentence, U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "The United States Attorney's Office is committed to working aggressively with federal, state and local law enforcement to remove dangerous criminals from the streets. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nashua Police Department have insured that Mr. Lata, a hardened career criminal, is behind bars for many years to come. Their diligence, professionalism, and cooperation are the reasons for the very successful conclusion of this case."

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nashua Police Department with the assistance of the Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Clyde R. W. Garrigan and Joseph N. Laplante.